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Texas Hits 'Outrageous' Talk As Giving Away U.S. Secrets

Mahon Demands a Halt to
Discussion of Intelligence
Efforts on Cuba

WASHINGTON, March 7 (AP) — The Chairman of the House Defense Appropriations subcommittee demanded an end to what he said was "outrageous and intolerable" damage to the Government's intelligence effort from too much talking about it.

In a House speech, Representative George Mahon, Democrat of Texas, said many people in Congress and in the Executive branch of the Government have been talking publicly about "matters which should only be discussed behind closed doors."

He declared that the President, the Vice President and the Speaker of the House should undertake to "coordinate" a course of action for the purpose of halting the rapid erosion of our national intelligence effort.

"There is an intelligence gap," he said, and it is "in the intelligence of those who are daily revealing the secrets of the intelligence operations of the United States Government."

"In recent weeks," Mr. Mahon asserted, "there has been a great excess of talk about the procedures of our intelligence apparatus. Critics have made public statements on matters which should never be discussed in public. The Administration has mistakenly allowed itself to be goaded into revealing information detrimental to our best interests."

"Along with many other Americans I am tired of these demonstrations of bad judgment. Every day some high-ranking intelligence officer is quoted in the newspapers on some subject or another. These men are men who should neither be seen or heard. A passion for anonymity is an integral part of their jobs."

He said the Executive branch



Associated Press Wirephoto

Rep. George Mahon after making speech in House.

the Legislative branch and Republicans and Democrats alike "must share the blame" for the present situation.

"Our immaturity and indiscretion in these constant disclosures is making us the laughing stock of the world,"

Mr. Mahon declared. "Officials in Moscow, Peking and Havana must applaud our stupidity in announcing publicly facts which they would gladly spend huge sums of money endeavoring to obtain. Responsibility on our part is urgently required. Let us be silent with respect to these sensitive matters."